

FBI Bugging Under JFK, LBJ Detailed

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By Laurence Stern
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Electronic surveillance directed against journalists, political leaders and civil rights activists during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations was outlined yesterday before the Senate intelligence committee.

Former Attorney General Nicholas deB Katzenbach acknowledged that he may have given his written ap-

proval on three separate occasions in 1965 for FBI bugging of the New York hotel room of the late Martin Luther King Jr. Katzenbach insisted, nonetheless, that such surveillance was contrary to his own policies while he ran the Justice Department.

Katzenbach's admission that he may have authorized the King surveillance came after he was presented with copies of FBI memoranda describing the microphone installations. Each of the memoranda bore Katzenbach's initials and was issued after the bugs had been installed. The former attorney general, under questioning by the committee staff, declined to say that his initials had been forged.

"I have no recollection of reading or receiving these memoranda," Katzenbach nonetheless insisted, "and given the circumstances I strongly believe that I would have such a recollection."

Katzenbach did defend strongly FBI infiltration and disruption of the Ku Klux Klan during the early 1960s. "You can't do a criminal investigation without using disruption," he testified of the anti-Klan operations when he headed the Justice Department in 1964.

The former Justice Department official emotionally appealed to the Senate committee to "recognize the differences" between the civil rights situation in Mississippi during 1964 and the threats from the Communist Party and the

New Left later in the decade.

Other testimony yesterday traced presidential political use of the FBI back to the Roosevelt and Truman eras to demonstrate that there were strong precedents for the excesses of the Nixon administration.

Committee staff member John Elliff testified that President Johnson asked for FBI "name check" reports on at least seven journalists, including NBC commentator David Brinkley, AP reporter Peter Arnett and syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft.

Another political abuse of FBI name checks occurred, Elliff testified, in the closing days of the 1964 presidential campaign when then White House aide Bill Moyers asked the bureau for reports on all staff members in the office of President Johnson's opponent, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.).

"Moyers has publicly

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recounted his role in the incident, and his account is confirmed by FBI documents," the staff member testified.

In earlier testimony Cartha D. DeLoach, a top aide to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, disclosed that President Johnson was reported by one of his closest advisers to have suspected CIA involvement in the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy. Johnson's concern was relayed by former White House aide Marvin Watson, DeLoach testified.

"Marvin Watson called me and told me that President Johnson called him and said he was now convinced there was a plot in the assassination," the FBI official said.

Also, he said, he provided information to the White House on the CIA's recruitment of Robert Maheu, an aide to millionaire Howard Hughes, and of crime figure Sam Giancana for attempts to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.



CARTHA D. DeLOACH
...tells of LBJ concern